

Application No.: 10/700,397
Attorney Docket No.: ISM-5
Amendment Dated: February 23, 2005
Reply for Office Action Dated: September 30, 2004

REMARKS

Applicant hereby affirms the election previously made to prosecute Claims 1-13 of the Group I invention and to withdraw Claims 14-43 as being drawn to a non-elected invention, pursuant to a restriction requirement. Applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue Claims 14-43 in a continuation filing.

Claims 44-48 have been newly added herein. No new matter is added with new Claims 44-48. Support for the new claims may be found in the original disclosure, for example, at Page 2, lines 5-25; Page 3, lines 19-25; Page 11, lines 3-20; and Page 23, line 19 to Page 24, line 12 and in the drawings.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,545,246 to Starmer.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 10 (now cancelled) and to more particularly describe the invention. Claim 11 has been amended to provide proper claim dependency. No new matter is added with these claim amendments. The amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure.

The rejection states in relevant part:

"The cap [of Starmer] also includes a projection piece (2) that connects to and extends from the body, as recited in claim 10." (Insertion added).

Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 (as amended) is patentable over Starmer because Starmer does not disclose, inter alia, the recitation of a tab projection piece as set forth in Claim 1. In particular, the component 2 in Starmer identified by the Examiner does not satisfy the tab projection piece recited in Claim 1.

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As set forth in amended Claim 1, the tab projection piece extends generally radially from the fitting body at the outer radial peripheral surface of the fitting body. (See Fig. 3). In one form, for example, the tab projection piece of the invention is disposed in a cantilevering arrangement with respect to the fitting body (new Claim 44), where the tab projection piece may extend radially in a direction that is orthogonal or oblique to the longitudinal axis of the fitting (new Claims 45-46).

However, in Starmer, the top component 2 does not extend radially from a radial peripheral surface of body component 1, but is located axially at the top of body 1 in a cap-type position. No other type of positioning for top component 2 is contemplated by Starmer. The top component 2 must be located in the axial arrangement of Fig. 1, since component 2 mates with the upper end of body 1 in interlocking fashion (via registration of bosses 11 and 12 with recess 4) to facilitate a working arrangement between component 2 and body 1 to provide the pressure indicating function using the indicated digits.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 (as amended) and Claims 2-9, 11-13 and 44-48 dependent therefrom are patentable over Starmer and requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

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If the Examiner has any questions or comments that would advance prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 260/484-4526.

Respectfully Submitted,


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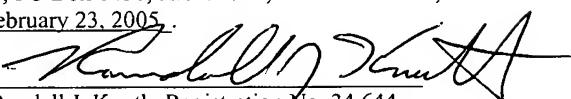
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Enclosures: Amendments to the Claims
(8 Sheets)
Explanatory Cover Sheet - Page 1
Petition for Extension of Time
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: February 23, 2005.


Randall J. Knuth, Registration No. 34,644

February 23, 2005

Date